

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2008
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Ray Stevens

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2008; MINUTES OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS OF THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the minutes of the June 24, 2008 Staff Meeting and May 22, 2008 Departmental Budget Hearings. Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- A. Request from Five Willows Fitness Center for Inclusion of Membership Discount Information in the New Employee Packets (Exhibit A)
- B. Alternatives to Incarceration (Exhibit B)
- C. Virginia Jail Visit (Exhibit C)
- D. Lack of Quorum for August 7th Staff Meeting

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Hudkins, Workman and Heier voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Schorr arrived at 8:34 a.m.

3 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, noted receipt of an invoice from the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) for the County's \$10,000 contribution for the period covering January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 (Exhibit D).

MOTION: Schorr moved to include a \$10,000 contribution to the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) in the budget for the coming year.

The motion died for the lack of a second.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Heier seconded to authorize Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, to submit payment of \$10,000 to the Lincoln Partnership for Economic Development (LPED) before the end of the fiscal year. Hudkins, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Workman voted no. Motion carried.

Meyer said Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center (YSC) Director, has reported an additional \$50,000 in budget reductions and has asked whether she should include the reductions when calculating the per diem rate.

There was general consensus to include the reductions in the calculation.

Hudkins said a year-end adjustment to reflect actual costs should be included if a new contract for housing State wards in YSC is negotiated with the State.

Meyer said Lancaster Manor's Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) will be posted before the end of the fiscal year and said the County will keep approximately \$2,500 of the \$3.3 million payment. He also reported receipt of a \$965,000 monthly payment from Medicaid and said the County should receive its first Medicare payment in July.

Meyer referred to the requests for increases in personnel and said the Public Defender has agreed to change his request for an administrative position from one full-time to two part-time positions, which reduces the cost from \$42,400 to \$29,000. He said he is still waiting for a response from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, on the Board's directive to prioritize his request for an Assistant Maintenance Construction Manager, Correctional Specialist I and System Programmer. Meyer noted the Board requested information on how an additional Forensic Intensive Case Manager for the Behavioral Health Jail Diversion Program would impact jail population numbers. He said Travis Parker, Program Manager, has indicated the case manager could serve an additional 15 individuals at any given time and an additional 25 individuals on an annual basis.

The Board discussed the budget schedule and opted to schedule discussion of the budget for the Rural Fire Districts and Lancaster County Agricultural Society on Thursday, August 14th; a public hearing on the budget on Tuesday, August 12th; and adoption of the budget on Tuesday, August 19th.

Discussion also took place regarding the Jail Savings Fund with general consensus to spend the proceeds down and let the fund go away.

4 BOARD OF EQUALIZATION UPDATE - Tom Kubert, Great Plains Appraisal, Inc., (Referee Coordinator)

Tom Kubert, Referee Coordinator, said he anticipates 1,200 to 1,500 property valuation protests this year.

Board consensus was to keep the following dates open for Board of Equalization hearings: July 18th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th. Additional dates may be needed the final week of July.

5 LABOR NEGOTIATIONS - Don Taute, Personnel Director; John Cripe, Classification and Pay Manager; Nicole Gross, Compensation Technician; Kristy Bauer, Deputy County Attorney; Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:13 a.m. for discussion of labor negotiations and pending litigation. Hudkins, Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to exit Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. Hudkins, Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

6 PENDING LITIGATION

See Item 5.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

A. Request from Five Willows Fitness Center for Inclusion of Membership Discount Information in the New Employee Packets (Exhibit A)

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded approval. Heier and Schorr voted aye. Workman and Hudkins voted no. Vote tied. Motion failed due to the lack of a majority.

7 SPECIAL PERMIT LEGISLATION (APPEALS TO COUNTY BOARD FROM PLANNING COMMISSION) - Marvin Krout, Planning Director

Marvin Krout, Planning Director, said the County Attorney's Office has informed him a proposed adjustment in the appeal procedure is not permissible, due to language in Nebraska Revised Statute § 23-114.01. The proposed adjustment would have allowed the Planning Commission to approve special permits subject to possible appeal to the County Board by either an applicant, County Board member or an aggrieved party.

General consensus was to pursue the legislation to permit the adjustment.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

B. Alternatives to Incarceration (Exhibit B)

Heier suggested the need for greater oversight of individuals in alternatives to incarceration programs (Drug Court, Pretrial and House Arrest), noting a list of current participants shows charges of child sexual assault, domestic violence and violation of a protection order. He said Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, has had a difficult time assembling a report of all offenses in the Department since the programs began, as he had requested, as it involves pulling data from several databases. Etherton indicated she would need to consult Information Services (IS) on how to compile the report.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Schorr seconded to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to meet with Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, and Information Services to discuss development of a program to track individuals in the programs. Heier, Schorr, Hudkins and Workman voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Virginia Jail Visit (Exhibit C)

Workman gave a brief report on his recent visit to the site of the new Western Virginia Regional Jail.

8 JAIL FINANCING OPTIONS AND DECISION TIMELINE - Scott Keene, Ameritas Investment Corporation; Lauren Wismer, Gilmore & Bell PC (Bond Counsel)

Scott Keene, Ameritas Investment Corporation, presented Lancaster County Jail Project, Preliminary Analysis of Financing Options, \$65,000,000 Par Amount and Construction Cost (Exhibit E). He noted interest rates have gone up in the last month (see Exhibit F) and said the Board might want to consider financing the jail over 25 years, rather than

20 years, if the County finances the project on its own, as it will provide more cushion under the 5.2 cent levy used for debt service and other obligations.

Hudkins noted the Board plans to make a decision on the financing on July 15th and asked how long it will take to place the bonds and receive the proceeds.

Keene said the County should have the proceeds 60 to 90 days after a decision on how to structure the issue.

Hudkins indicated the need to lock in material costs.

Workman said he is more concerned with locking in the interest rate.

Keene said the Board could purchase materials and equipment with County funds, pass a reimbursement resolution and reimburse the funds with proceeds of the bonds.

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to schedule a vote on the jail financing issue on the July 15, 2008 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda. Heier, Workman, Schorr and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Heier asked that staff notify the Mayor, City Council and Public Building Commission (PBC) of the Board's action.

Hudkins suggested it would be beneficial to have Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer and Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, meet with Don Herz, City Finance Director, and a representative of the Mayor's Office to discuss some of the financing issues.

9 RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) UPDATE - Greg Hall, Rural Emergency Medical Services Committee Chairman

Greg Hall, Rural Emergency Medical Services Committee Chairman, said his committee is negotiating a new contract with Lincoln Fire and Rescue (LFR) for emergency services. LFR has indicated it is losing \$180,000 a year by responding to Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) calls in rural areas. He said the rural calls account for less than 6% of LFR's overall responses but there is also a cost for LFR maintaining readiness to respond. Hall said the rural fire districts believe they can generate \$100,000 to \$120,000 a year and said LFR is seeking a subsidy for the difference. He said the other option is to levy a tax for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Lancaster County.

Heier said he would like to see the Request for Proposals (RFP) and the scope of services. He also asked Hall how many districts lack ambulances.

Hall said there are 10.

Heier asked how much a new ambulance costs.

Hall estimated the cost at \$90,000 to \$125,000 and said it costs \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year to operate an ambulance on the rural side. He added there is concern the subsidy amount will increase if rural fire districts purchase ambulances because LFR will still have a readiness cost.

Schorr suggested reorganization under the quadrant plan proposed by Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director. Rural fire districts would share ambulances under the plan.

Hall said the southeast section of the County does not have an ambulance.

Workman questioned the appropriateness of the County paying a subsidy for rural ambulance service as the funds would come primarily from City taxpayers.

Hudkins said he would like the committee to consider one taxing district for the entire County, similar to the model for the rural library system.

Hall said surrounding counties would have to pay a user fee to access the system. He added the levy would have to be based on the cost to operate ambulance service throughout the County, including the subsidy for LFR.

Questions were raised as to how to address districts that are outside the County.

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, said it may require restructuring of districts.

Hudkins exited the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

It was suggested the committee focus on a one-year contract with LFR and continue to work on a long-term plan for ambulance service in the County.

Hall asked that a member of the Board attend the next committee meeting, scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on July 2nd at the Cortland Fire Station.

Heier agreed to attend the meeting.

10 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Request from Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, to Attend the American Correctional Association Congress of Corrections in New Orleans, Louisiana (August 8-13, 2008)

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded approval of the request. Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

11 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

- A. Pension Request for Proposals (RFP) Update

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, said Frank Picarelli, Segal Advisors (Pension Plan Consultant) has completed his analysis of the bids. He said Picarelli will meet with the Pension Review Committee (PRC) on July 16th and present his report to the Board on July 17th.

- B. Correspondence from Time Warner Cable Regarding Franchise Renewal

Eagan said Time Warner Cable has given notice that it seeks renewal of its cable television franchise.

12 DISCUSSION OF BOARD MEMBER MEETINGS

- A. Lancaster County Fairgrounds Joint Public Agency (JPA) - Heier

Heier said the Planning Commission signed off on a proposal for commercial development of 14 acres the Lancaster County Agricultural Society owns near the Lancaster Event Center.

- B. Joint Budget Committee (JBC) - Stevens, Schorr

No meeting.

C. Lincoln Independent Business Association (LIBA) Monthly Meeting -
Hudkins, Workman

Workman said discussion focused on the budget.

D. Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Advisory Committee -
Stevens

No report.

13 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Heier moved and Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. Schorr, Workman and Heier voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk